

Science Transparency Coverage

The Daily Caller: Scott Pruitt Will End EPA's Use of 'Secret Science' to Justify Regulations. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt will soon end his agency's use of "secret science" to craft regulations. "We need to make sure their data and methodology are published as part of the record," Pruitt said in an exclusive interview with The Daily Caller News Foundation. "Otherwise, it's not transparent. It's not objectively measured, and that's important." Pruitt will reverse long-standing EPA policy allowing regulators to rely on non-public scientific data in crafting rules. Such studies have been used to justify tens of billions of dollars' worth of regulations. ([Daily Caller](#), 03/19/18)

Wall Street Journal: EPA Wants New Rules to Rely Solely on Public Data. The Environmental Protection Agency plans to restrict research used in developing regulations, the agency said Tuesday, a change that could affect rules governing everything from household products to power-plant emissions. The proposal follows years of complaints by conservatives that regulations such as emissions restrictions under the Obama administration sometimes went beyond what science could prove. The new proposal would exclude the many research studies that don't make their raw data public and limit the use of findings that can't be reproduced by others. The EPA said this would boost transparency. ([WSJ](#), 04/24/18)

The Washington Post: Pruitt Unveils Controversial 'Transparency' Rule Tuesday Limiting What Research EPA Can Use. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt proposed a rule Tuesday that would establish new standards for what science could be used in writing agency regulations, according to individuals briefed on the plan. The sweeping change, long sought by conservatives, could have significant implications for decisions on everything from the toxicity of household products to the level of soot that power plants can emit. The rule would only allow EPA to consider studies for which the underlying data are made available publicly. ([WaPo](#), 04/24/18)

Washington Examiner: Scott Pruitt Announces New EPA Rule to Combat 'Secret Science.' Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt announced a proposed rule Tuesday that would block the agency from using scientific studies that do not make public the raw data used in the research. Pruitt argues the proposed rule, subject to a 30-day comment period, would improve transparency and ensure science used in policymaking can be independently verified. It fits with a policy he implemented last year to boot scientists from key advisory boards to the EPA. ([Washington Examiner](#), 04/24/18)

E&E News: Pruitt to Unveil 'Secret Science' Effort Today. Scott Pruitt is expected today to unveil his plans to restrict science used by EPA, multiple sources told E&E News. The EPA administrator is slated to release an order requiring that all underlying data used in scientific studies affecting regulations be made public. The move fulfills a long-standing wish of some conservatives who argue that EPA has been relying on "secret science" when crafting rules. ([E&E](#), 04/24/18)

ABC News: Pruitt Wants EPA to Stop Basing Rules on What He Calls 'Secret Science.' Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt announced a new rule Tuesday that would limit what kind of science the EPA can consider in writing new environmental rules. Pruitt said the rule would ban the EPA from relying on what he called "secret science," research that didn't make the raw data behind it available to the general public, saying the new proposal makes the process more transparent. ([ABC News](#), 04/24/18)

Reuters: U.S. Environment Agency Proposes Limits to Science Used in Rulemaking. Under the new proposals, the EPA will no longer be able to rely on scientific research that is underpinned by confidential medical and industry data. The measure was billed by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt as a way to boost transparency for the

benefit of the industries his agency regulates. But scientists and former EPA officials worry it will hamstring the agency's ability to protect public health by putting key data off limits. ([Reuters](#), 04/24/18)

The Hill: Pruitt Signs Proposed Rule to Erase 'Secret Science.' Speaking in front of a number of well-known climate change skeptics including the Competitive Enterprise Institute's Myron Ebell, Pruitt announced that the new rule would require science to "be transparent, reproducible and able to be analyzed by those in the marketplace." He also dubbed the current process which had, until now, allowed science to be peer reviewed rather than open to public scrutiny, "simply wrong headed." ([The Hill](#), 04/24/18)

Bloomberg: Pruitt Proposes Limits to Scientific Research Used by EPA Staff. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency broke with four decades of practice Tuesday and proposed limits on the science used to develop policies protecting public health and the environment. The measure, backed by conservatives and some advisers to President Donald Trump who have warned of "junk science," would prevent the EPA from considering scientific research unless all methodological, technical and other information is publicly available. But critics fear the move would exclude such research as public-health studies containing anonymized patient data. ([Bloomberg](#), 04/24/18)

Daily Caller: Scott Pruitt's Transparency Rule Will Shed Light on A Key Aspect of EPA Regulations. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt's proposed rule requiring data transparency, if finalized, would be a major reform of the agency's scientific and regulatory process. Not only will Pruitt's proposal against "secret science" require data transparency, the rule will also require EPA officials to take a hard look at the scientific basis for models used in regulations to calculate the effects of changes in air pollutants. ([Daily Caller](#), 04/25/18)

The Hill: EPA Opts for Accountability and Transparency in Environmental Science (op-ed). Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt signed a proposed rule to prevent the agency from relying on scientific studies that don't publish their underlying data. "The era of secret science at EPA is coming to an end," Pruitt said. "The ability to test, authenticate, and reproduce scientific findings is vital for the integrity of the rulemaking process. Americans deserve to assess the legitimacy of the science underpinning EPA decisions that may impact their lives." ([The Hill](#), 04/25/18)

The Daily Signal: Scott Pruitt's Effort to Expose 'Secret Science' Has Environmentalists Scared Stiff. A proposed rule announced Tuesday by Scott Pruitt, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is intended to bring much-needed transparency to agency rulemaking. The environmental lobby is positively apoplectic about the proposal (naturally), even though it aligns perfectly with their long-held commitment to the public's "right to know" principle. The proposed regulation would require EPA to ensure that the scientific data and research models "pivotal" to significant regulation are "publicly available in a manner sufficient for validation and analysis." ([Daily Signal](#), 04/26/18)

The Washington Times: Reforming the Environmental Protection Agency (op-ed). EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is getting a lot of push-back for his efforts to reform the Environmental Protection Agency and its rule-making process. His goal of making regulations work better for economic as well as environmental purposes is apparently a new way of doing business at the agency. A policy change recently announced by the administrator requires that all the data and methodology the EPA uses in the rule-making process from now on will become part of the public record and open to scrutiny. This policy shift is particularly important because it upsets the status quo of an agency that went off the rails years ago. ([Wash Times](#), 05/01/18)

The Washington Post: Many Mocked This Scott Pruitt Proposal. They Should Have Read It First (op-ed). When Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt proposed a rule last month to improve

transparency in science used to make policy decisions, he was roundly criticized by interest groups and academics. Several researchers asserted that the policy would be used to undermine a litany of existing environmental protections. Former Obama administration EPA officials co-wrote a New York Times op-ed in which they said the proposal “would undermine the nation’s scientific credibility.” The Economist derided the policy as “swamp science.” But there is a lot to cheer about in the rule that opponents have missed. A careful reading suggests it could promote precisely the kind of evidence-based policy most scientists and the public should support. ([WaPo](#), 05/10/18)